

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 4024

GUATEMALA FOR ROCAP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, OGEN, HO

SUBJECT: HURRICANE FIFI - FIRST ECONOMIC DAMAGE ESTIMATE

1. A FIRST ECONOMIC DAMAGE ESTIMATE WHICH EXCLUDES HOUSING AND PERSONAL EFFECTS LOSSES IS APPROXIMATELY 212 MILLION. THE FOLLOWING ESTIMATES OBTAINED FROM PRESS REPORTS, CONVERSATIONS AND AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE.

2. PUBLIC SECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE LOSSES (DOLLARS):
ROADS AND BRIDGES 2 MILLION; AIRPORTS 2 MILLION; PIER FACILITIES 0.5 MILLION; STREETS AND URBAN PUBLIC WORKS 2 MILLION; PUBLIC BUILDINGS 0.5 MILLION; ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION 0.750 MILLION; TELEPHONES AND COMMUNICATIONS 0.5 MILLION; TOTAL APPROXIMATELY 8.5 MILLION.

3. PRIVATE SECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE (DOLLARS): PIERS 0.5 MILLION; BUILDINGS, FACILITIES 2 MILLION; BOATS 1.5 MILLION; PLANT EQUIPMENT 0.750 MILLION; COMMERCIAL TRANSPORT 1.5 MILLION; TOTAL APPROXIMATELY 7 MILLION.

4. CROP LOSS, CURRENT PRODUCTION AS FOLLOWS: BANANAS
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49 MILLION; OTHER FRUITS 0.5 MILLION; BEANS 1.5 MILLION;

CORN 3.0 MILLION, SORGHUM 0.5 MILLION; COTTON 0.5 MILLION;
OTHER 2 MILLION; TOTAL APPROXIMATELY 57 MILLION.

5. LOSS OF PERENNIAL CROPS IN 1975: \$100 MILLION; MOST
OF WHICH IS BANANAS 97.5 MILLION AND SUGAR 12.5 MILLION.

6. VALUE OF CATTLE LOSSES PLACED AT APPROXIMATELY \$40 MILLION.
THIS FIGURE SEEMS TOO HIGH AND PRESUMES THE LOSS OF MORE
THAN 60 PERCENT OF THE CATTLE POPULATION IN THE DISASTER
AREA.

7. IMMEDIATE EXPENDITURES ON BANANA PLANTATIONS TO
REHABILITATE PRODUCTIVE AREAS ESTIMATED AT \$3 MILLION.

8. HONDURAN GOVERNMENT EMERGENCY COMMITTEE ESTIMATE OF
\$1 BILLION INCLUDES LOSS OF PERSONAL EFFECTS, HOUSING,
AND PRODUCTION IN SUBSISTENCE FARMING, INVENTORY AND STOCK.

9. ABOVE FIGURES ARE QUITE PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO REVISION.
PUBLIC SECTOR AND PRIVATE SECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE LOSSES
APPEAR UNDERSTATED, WHILE COMMERCIAL CROP LOSSES MAY BE HIGH.
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